However, the emphasis in this report will center on measures other than cleanup programs for ground water protection.

No Single "Comprehensive" Program

While the committee reviewed a number of state programs and noted many promising individual program elements, no single program was found to address all aspects of ground water protection problems comprehensively. A comprehensive program would probably incorporate elements from a number of the state and local programs reviewed in this report as well as other techniques not discussed here. While no single program can be held out as a model for others to follow, collectively they comprise a reasonable array of alternative ground water protection program designs being used in the United States.

State Approaches Differ

It is apparent that ground water issues and conditions vary from state to state and reflect differences in the states' physical, social, and political makeup. As a result, no single strategy for dealing with ground water pollution problems can be recommended for all states or areas. Each state or local strategy will necessarily reflect the local situation.

Importance of Program Focus on Ground Water as a Resource

Programs that base coherent intergovernmental activities on protection of ground water as a resource appear to have a greater potential for long-term success than those that focus on remedial action, as has often been the case in other environmental protection programs.

Overall Effectiveness of Programs Is Unclear

Many programs examined were relatively new and lacked comprehensive criteria and data collection programs to measure their effectiveness. Therefore, the committee could not evaluate their effectiveness in detail. Because ground water protection is a long-term process, success will depend on implementation of effective information-gathering programs. Despite these limitations, it can be seen that many components of the programs examined have clearly been beneficial.